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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Schroeder et al.

Examiner: Huynh, Yennhu B.

Serial No: 09/883,437

Group Art Unit: 2813

Filed: June 18, 2001

Docket: 8055-31 (01 P 10755 US)

For: **HIGH CONTRAST LITHOGRAPHY ALIGNMENT MARKS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the office action dated July 29, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-6, with traverse. Claims 1-18 are pending in the current application.

As set forth in MPEP § 803, if the search and examination on an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any document referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage paid in an addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 29, 2002.

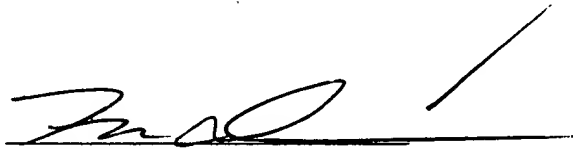
Dated: 8/29/02

Frank V. DeRosa

While the inventions of Group I, Group II, and Group III may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination will not present an undue burden, much less any burden. Indeed, the claimed subject matters are all related to methods for providing contrast alignment marks after a blank metal deposition, which are commonly classified. Under such circumstances, the Examiner is encouraged to maintain all claims in the same application.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank V. DeRosa', is written over a horizontal line.

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